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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

SHAWN RICE,

Defendant.

2:09-CR-78 JCM (RJJ)  
2:10-CR-520 JCM (RJJ)

**ORDER**

Presently before the court is *pro se* defendant Shawn Talbot Rice's motion for enlargement of time. (Doc. # 301 in case 2:09-cr-00078; doc. # 65 in case 2:10-cr-00520).

Defendant seeks to continue the sentencing hearing, currently set for October 24, 2012, to November 23, 2012. (Doc. # 301, 2:24-25 in case 2:09-cr-00078; doc. # 65, 2:24-25 in case 2:10-cr-00520). Defendant contends he has been unable to properly prepare for the hearing. (Doc. # 301, 2:7-8 in case 2:09-cr-00078; doc. # 65, 2:7-8 in case 2:10-cr-00520). Defendant represents that the case manager at his detention facility has yet to process his application to proceed in forma pauperis which is needed for him to obtain trial transcripts. (Aff., ¶¶ 6, 7). Without these transcripts defendant does not believe he can sufficiently prepare for his sentencing hearing. (*Id.*)

The court appreciates the importance of a criminal *pro se* defendant's ability to adequately prepare for critical stages of a proceeding. *See Gardner v. Florida*, 430 U.S. 349, 358, (1977) (sentencing is critical stage in criminal proceedings). Because defendant has been unable to obtain important documents to present his position at the sentencing hearing, the court finds good cause for a continuance.


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Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED, motion for enlargement of time (doc. # 301 in case 2:09-cr-00078; doc. # 65 in case 2:10-cr-00520) be, and the same hereby is, GRANTED.<sup>1</sup>

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED that the sentencing hearing be **continued to November 27, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.**

DATED September 19, 2012.

  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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<sup>1</sup>The court acknowledges defendant's request in the alternative; for an extension to December 27, 2012, if he is not able to obtain the trial transcripts until some time after September 28, 2012. The court declines to grant the enlargement of time in the alternative. However, if defendant believes he requires additional time if such is the case, defendant may file a second request with the court.